

Remarks

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-6 and 15-20 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claims 15-20 have been allowed, and claims 1-6 have been rejected.

II. Summary of the Office Action

In the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated October 30, 2003, Applicant's Amendment and Reply filed in this matter on October 15, 2003, was held to be non-compliant only because a complete listing of all the claims was not present. As stated on the Notice, only the corrected section of the non-compliant amendment was required to be resubmitted in its entirety. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(h). Since the present Supplemental Amendment and Reply provides a complete listing of all the claims in the present application, Applicant respectfully submits that the present Reply is fully responsive to the Notice. Applicant's Amendment and Reply filed on October 15, 2003, including all of the attachments thereto, is otherwise reiterated and incorporated by reference herein. Applicant also reiterates and incorporates herein by reference the Request for Interference Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.607 that was filed in the present matter on December 4, 2001, and that was reiterated in Applicant's Amendment and Reply filed on October 15, 2003. On the basis of this timely and properly filed Request for Interference, Applicant further respectfully requests that an interference be expeditiously declared between the present application and U.S. Patent No. 5,614,365.

III. Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, and the requirements of the Notice of Non-compliant Amendment have been met. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all of the outstanding rejections, and allow all pending claims. It is believed that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance and for immediate declaration of the above-noted interference. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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